

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 and 10-32 are pending in the application and are under consideration. The Office Action of June 26, 2003, has been carefully considered. Applicant appreciates the Examiners indication that Claims 2-6 and 10-20 are allowable. Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the above amendments and the following remarks, and pass the application to allowance.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION:

Drawings:

Pursuant to the acceptance of the corrected or substitute drawings received on May 16, 2003, a corrected Figure 20 has been submitted herewith.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dubuit, U.S. Patent No. 5,549,444.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a memory storage disk handling system, comprising a housing; an elevator pin mounted on the housing for lifting disks into a stack; a servo motor attached to the housing; and a linkage assembly attached between the servo motor and the elevator pin, wherein the elevator pin presses a single disk into the stack. (Emphasis added).

Claim 21 as amended recites a memory storage disk handling system, including a housing; an elevator pin mounted on the housing, wherein the elevator pin presses a single disk into a stack of disks; a servo motor attached to the housing; a base having a position sensor; and a linkage assembly between the servo motor and the elevator pin. (Emphasis added).

Dubuit relates to a loader for a machine for printing objects presented in a stack. The loader includes a lifting device which lifts a stack of objects to printed stepwise as objects are taken from the stack and a reciprocating transfer device having at least one take-up unit taking an object from the stack on each cycle to convey it to the printing machine. The "lifting device operative at the loading station 14 and adapted to take up from below a stack 16 of objects 11 and to raise it stepwise as objects 11 are taken from the stack." Col. 3, line 18-22. The "transfer device 32 operative between the loading station 14 and the printing machine 10 and adapted to take an object from the stack 16 at the loading station 14 and then to convey the object 11 to the printing machine 10." (Emphasis added.) Col. 3, line 22-26.

Debuit does not teach or suggest pressing a single disk into a stack of disks as recited in Claims 1 and 21. Rather, in Debuit, the transfer device 32 takes an object from the top of the stack of disks as shown in Figs. 9A-9D. Furthermore, the lifting device 30 operates to raise the stack 16 of object 11 as objects are taken from the stack. Accordingly, since Debuit does not teach or suggest pressing a single disk into a stack, Claims 1 and 21 should be allowable. Claims 22-24 are dependent from Claim 21 and should be allowable for the reasons set forth as to Claim 21.

New Claims 25-32:

New Claims 25-27 recite a memory storage disk handling system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the stack of disks has a top and a bottom, and wherein the single disk is added to the bottom of the stack; further comprising a conveyor; and a memory storage disk handling system as set forth in claim 26, wherein the conveyor delivers disks to the memory storage device handling system for the elevator pin to stack the delivered disks into a stack, respectively.

For the reasons set forth above as to Claim 1 and further since none of the cited art teaches or suggests a stack of disks having a top and a bottom, and wherein the single disk

is added to the bottom of the stack, or a conveyor, Claims 25 and 26 should be allowable. Claim 27 is dependent from Claim 26, Claim 27 should also be allowable.

New Claim 28 recites a memory storage disk handling system including a housing defining a hopper for holding disks in a stack; an elevator pin mounted on the housing for lifting disks into the hopper; and a plurality of pawls for holding disks, wherein the plurality of pawls slide between a retracted position which enables the elevator pin to lift disks into the stack and an extended position for holding disks.

New Claims 29-32 recite the system of Claim 28, further comprising a servo motor and a linkage assembly, wherein the linkage assembly is attached between the servo motor and the elevator pin for lifting the elevator pin in response to the servo motor; wherein the disks are retained in a vertical stack; wherein the linkage assembly includes at least one belt and at least one pulley; and wherein the linkage assembly is a gear linkage assembly

Since none of the art cited teaches or suggests a memory storage disk handling system having an elevator pin mounted on the housing for lifting disks into the hopper and a plurality of pawls for holding disks, wherein the plurality of pawls slide between a retracted position which enables the elevator pin to lift disks into the stack and an extended position for holding disks, Claims 28-32 should be allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-6 and 10-32 are presently in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is requested. If, however, any matters remain that could be clarified by Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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